

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T STATE 016077 TOSEC 010119

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: YOUR VISIT TO ANKARA: SUPPLEMENTARY MEMORANDUM:
CYPRUS: KYPRIANOU/ECEVIT SUMMIT IDEA

REF: NICOSIA 159

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM EUR-VEST THROUGH C-NIMETZ

1. GLAFCOS CLERIDES APPROACHED AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD IN
NICOSIA JANUARY 19 ON BEHALF OF CYPRIOT PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU
TO ASK WHETHER YOU COULD INDICATE TO ECEVIT THAT KYPRIANOU
WOULD WELCOME AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH ECEVIT
(REFTEL).

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2. WE THINK THERE ARE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH THIS IDEA AND
PARTICULARLY WITH ANY IMPLIED US ENDORSEMENT OF IT. HOW-
EVER, THERE ARE ALSO PROBLEMS VIS-A-VIS OUR RELATIONS WITH
THE GOC AND PERHAPS THE GOG IF WE REFUSE TO PASS THE MESSAGE.
WE HAVE IN RECENT WEEKS REPEATEDLY ENCOURAGED THE GREEK
CYPRIOTS TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO TURKISH INITIATIVES, AND

THIS IDEA OF AN ECEVIT-KYPRIANOU MEETING MAY BE SEEN BY THE GOC IN PART AS AN ATTEMPT TO PUT INTO EFFECT OUR RECOMMENDATION. ON BALANCE, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT YOU PASS THE MESSAGE TO ECEVIT IN A LOW-KEY MANNER, PERHAPS OUTSIDE OF

YOUR FORMAL MEETING WITH HIM, SIMPLY NOTING THAT WE HAVE INDICATIONS THAT KYPRIANOU WOULD WELCOME AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY FOR A MEETING.

3. WE RECOMMEND THAT, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS, YOU AVOID IMPLYING ANY ENDORSEMENT OF THE IDEA:

-- ECEVIT WOULD PROBABLY REACT NEGATIVELY TO THE IDEA OF MEETING WITH KYPRIANOU SINCE THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE HIM AS PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS.

-- ECEVIT (AND WALDHEIM) WOULD CONSTRUE SUCH A PROPOSAL AS AN EFFORT TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE IDEA OF EARLY RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS UNDER THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S AUSPICES, AT WHICH A TURKISH TERRITORIAL PROPOSAL AND REVISED CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS WOULD BE CONSIDERED. ANY SUGGESTION THAT WE WERE IN ANY WAY ADVOCATING A FORUM OTHER THAN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WOULD CAUSE MISUNDERSTANDING AND A DEGREE OF CONFUSION ABOUT OUR ROLE.

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-- KYPRIANOU'S APPARENT EAGERNESS TO MOVE BEYOND THE INTERCOMMUNAL FORUM STRIKES US AS IN LARGE PART AN ATTEMPT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE IS NOT MERELY THE LEADER OF AN ETHNIC COMMUNITY, AND HENCE AN EQUAL OF DENKTASH, BUT IS IN FACT ABLE TO DEAL ON PAR WITH THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER--THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS' MASTER.

-- A KYPRIANOU-ECEVIT MEETING COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON DENKTASH (UNLESS HE WERE SOMEHOW INCLUDED AS KYPRIANOU'S EQUAL), PERHAPS CAUSING HIM TO RETREAT INTO HIS ACCUSTOMED OBDURACY. IT THUS MIGHT BE MORE DIFFICULT TO PERSUADE HIM TO BE FORTHCOMING ON TERRITORIAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS AND TO COOPERATE WITH SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM IN THE EFFORT TO RESUME THE INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS.

4. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS ARE VERY SKEPTICAL THAT THE ECEVIT-INSPIRED PROPOSALS WILL BE WORTH MUCH AND THERE WILL BE PRESSURE FOR A NEGATIVE RESPONSE ONCE THEY ARE REVEALED. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD MENTION TO ECEVIT YOUR HOPE THAT THE PROPOSALS WILL SHOW SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY AND REASONABLENESS TO OFFER A REAL BASIS FOR SUSTAINED DISCUSSION. CLERIDES HAS TOLD CRAWFORD THAT

THERE WILL BE STRONG PRESSURE IN THE GREEK COMMUNITY TO REJECT THE TERRITORIAL PROPOSAL OUT OF HAND IF VAROSHA IS RETAINED IN THE TURKISH ZONE. THUS, HE HOPED THAT ON THIS POINT THERE WOULD BE SOME INDICATION AT LEAST OF TURKISH WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE AND DISCUSS THE STATUS OF FAMAGUSTA.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE INFO ADDRESSESS HOLDING REFTTEL AND THE ABOVE VERY CLOSELY. CHRISTOPHER

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